

Hunters must enter the refuge no earlier than two hours before legal sunrise and must exit the refuge within two hours after legal sunset. Please plan your hunt, and your shot, with these times in mind. Adherence to opening and closing times enables refuge staff to rapidly determine if an emergency situation is developing or if hunter assistance is needed.

Access

All motor vehicles are restricted to refuge parking areas or parish roads. ATVs are restricted to designated ATV trails and are only allowed from September 1 through February 6. **Using an ATV to travel off a designated trail in order to retrieve game, or for any other reason, is strictly prohibited.** An all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is an off-road vehicle with factory specifications

not to exceed the following: weight 750 lbs. (337.5 kg), length 85 inches (212.5 cm), and width 48 inches (120 cm).

We restrict ATV tires to those no larger than 25 X 12 with a maximum 1-inch (2.5 cm) lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. Only trailers with flotation-type tires may be used on the ATV trails. Parking areas and ATV trails may be closed to all use due to adverse conditions. Hunters must not block any gate, road, entrance or trail with their vehicle.

All state boating regulations apply including, but not limited to, running lights, registration, and personal floatation devices. Boats may be used to access the refuge from Bayou Cocodrie or Cross Bayou. Entering the refuge from U.S. Highway 84 is prohibited. All boats used to access the refuge must be docked on the banks of the refuge. Boats used on the refuge may not be left on the refuge for more than **three** days and must be clearly marked with the name and home address of the person using the boat. Horses and mules are not allowed. Bicycles are allowed year round and are restricted to designated trails.

Specific Fishing Regulations

State creel limits apply.

Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.

Taking or harassing alligator snapping turtles is prohibited.

Fishing is permitted on the Cross Bayou Cut and all tributaries that fill with water from Bayou Cocodrie during high water stages.

The refuge boat ramp is open from 2 hours before sunrise until 2 hours after sunset.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on the refuge:
Entering the refuge from private property and/or hunt leases.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.

Baiting or hunting over bait, and the possession of bait.

Possession of any type of shot other than approved non-toxic shot.

Taking, collecting or disturbing any plant (including cutting trees or brush) or wildlife other than as specified in the refuge regulations.

Target shooting.

Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects; using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or metal objects; or using climbing spikes.

Use or possession of climbing spikes, screw-in steps, or other deer stand accessories that screw in or otherwise penetrate the cambium of trees

Hunting within 150 feet of a designated refuge road or trail.

Hunting in designated “No Hunting Zones” and/or entering into designated “Closed Areas”.

Marking areas with flagging, paper, paint, etc. and/or possession of marking materials.

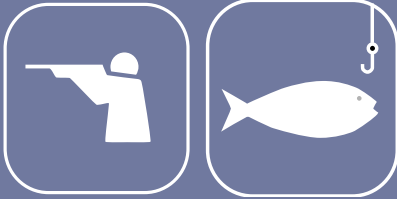
Use of horses or mules.

Camping/overnight parking.

Black bears are protected.

The Louisiana black bear is listed as a threatened species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It is unlawful for anyone to take, harass, disturb, etc., any Louisiana black bear. Criminal penalty: up to \$50,000 and one year imprisonment.

Bayou Cocodrie
National Wildlife Refuge
Hunting and Fishing
Regulations 2004-2005



Bayou Cocodrie
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1772
Ferryday, LA 71334
318/336 7119
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

May 2004



Bayou Cocodrie Refuge Hunting and Fishing
Permit 2004-2005

When signed and in your possession, this serves as your hunting and/or fishing permit, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Signature (permit is non-transferable)

Michael Esters, Refuge Manager

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge

Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1992, is located in Concordia Parish in east central Louisiana. The 13,168 acre refuge is composed of some of the last remaining, least disturbed bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi River Delta. Due to the area’s diverse habitat, several wildlife species including game mammals, waterfowl, and Neotropical songbirds, utilize the refuge. The refuge is open year round to the public. However, hunting is only permitted on the refuge during specific times of the year.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State regulations subject to the following conditions.

Passes, Permits, and Other Requirements
Permits:

Hunters and anglers 16 years of age and older are required to have all valid state hunting and/or fishing licenses and a signed refuge permit. When signed and in your possession, the permit section of this brochure serves as your refuge hunting and/or fishing permit for all refuge activities except the lottery gun and youth hunts, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. To help save tax dollars, hunters and anglers are encouraged to retain and use the same permit throughout the entire season. Permits can be obtained at the refuge headquarters, or by telephone, written, or emailed request, and are available online at www.fws.gov. Permits are non-transferable.

Special limited permits are required for the lottery gun hunt for deer. There is a \$12.50 fee for permits and permits are **non-transferable** and **non-refundable**. Applications for limited permits will be accepted from July 7 until 4:00 pm on August 30, 2004. To apply, mail the following information to the refuge office:

- your name
- complete mailing address
- date of birth
- choice of unit to hunt (Brooks Brake, Cross Bayou, or Wallace Lake)

- signature
- use a standard (8.5 X 11 inch) sheet of paper
- you may only apply once
- you must specify which unit you wish to hunt
- to be considered a group, all information for the group (up to 5 individuals) must appear on the same sheet of paper
- do not send payment with your application

Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and given details on how to submit the permit fee. Hunters under 16 years of age must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course. Only those persons with valid hunt permits are allowed to use the refuge during the gun hunt.

Special limited permits are also required for the lottery youth deer hunts. Applications for youth hunt permits will be accepted from July 7 until 4:00 pm on August 30, 2004, via the same procedure described above with the exception of group applications. Hunters between the ages of 8 and 15 years, inclusive, who have successfully completed hunter education, are eligible to apply. Youth hunt applicants must specify for which hunt they wish to apply and may only apply for one of the hunts. Applicants may also identify if they have a preference for either the north (Tiffee field near the refuge headquarters) or south (Esque field near the Cross Bayou Check Station) hunt area. Permits are non-transferable.

Other Requirements

All refuge users are required to sign in at a designated check station upon entering the refuge and sign out upon their departure. It is recommended that users leave some indication of where they intend to be on the dashboard of their vehicle in the event of an emergency. Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than two hours before legal sunrise and must exit the refuge by two hours after legal sunset.

Use of a safety harness at all times while using a tree stand is not only recommended, but just plain smart. Emergency medical assistance may be hours away so if a fall doesn’t kill you, you could be in pain for a long time. Avoid becoming a statistic - **WEAR YOUR SAFETY BELT**.

Bows and Firearms

Bowhunters must possess and carry proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program when bowhunting on the refuge.

Bows are permitted only during the refuge archery hunt. State regulations governing equipment, including, but not limited to, drug tipped arrows, pods, broadhead size, etc., are applicable. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations governing crossbow use will apply to refuge hunters.



The possession of slugs or rifle ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is prohibited during the refuge small game and woodcock seasons. Possession of buckshot is prohibited. Possession of lead shot or any shotgun ammunition other than approved, non-toxic shot is prohibited on the refuge except that rifled slugs are permitted during the lottery deer hunts.

Firearms carried in vehicles or boats and on ATVs must be **unloaded and encased**. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Firearms are permitted on the refuge only during the applicable gun hunts. Possession of any firearm while engaged in archery hunting is prohibited.



Physically challenged or disabled users are encouraged to consult refuge staff for available options and alternatives that may make their visit more enjoyable. Hunters with disabilities must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Special access ATV trails are available for mobility-impaired hunters with proper state and refuge permits.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are listed in this brochure.

Hunting from old stands erected in past years, erecting permanent stands or blinds, or using old structures/camps is prohibited. Old dilapidated stands and structures are unsafe for any use.

Hunter Orange is required during the refuge muzzleloader hunt, lottery deer hunt, and youth deer hunts. Four hundred (400) square inches of **unbroken** Hunter Orange and a cap of **unbroken** Hunter Orange must be worn on the outermost layer of clothing at all

times during these hunts, **including on the ATV trails and while in stands**. A Hunter Orange cap is also recommended during the small game, archery, and woodcock hunts.

Any hunter under 16 years of age must possess and carry proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied at all times by an adult 21 years of age or older. Each adult can supervise (within sight and normal voice contact) only one youth. Waterfowl hunters may supervise up to two youth hunters. Hunters using shotguns to hunt on the refuge are required to use an approved non-toxic shot. Possession of lead shot is prohibited.

All game taken on the refuge must be checked daily at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map in this brochure. A more detailed map is available at the refuge headquarters for reference only. The map does not substitute for a refuge permit.

During the youth deer hunts, only the youth is permitted to carry a firearm. It is illegal to hunt or shoot deer with firearms smaller than a .22 caliber center-fire or a shotgun loaded with anything other than rifled slugs. Possession of buckshot is prohibited.

Entering from private property by means of walking, ATV, boat, etc., is prohibited.

The primary method of taking game on the refuge is still-hunting. The only time the refuge is not limited to still-hunting is during the woodcock season and the second small game season. Retrievers are allowed for waterfowl hunting.

Stands used on the refuge may not be put up until the **opening day** of archery season and must be removed by the end of the **last day** of archery season. Any stand left on the refuge past the end of the archery season will be considered abandoned and therefore property of the U.S. Government. It is highly recommended that stands not be left on the refuge for more than 3 days and that they are visited every day while they are on the refuge. Stands used on the refuge must be clearly marked with the name and address of the person using the stand.

Constructing permanent blinds for waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Any temporary blind must be either removed from the refuge or destroyed and scattered by noon on the last day of the refuge waterfowl season. Temporary and/or makeshift blinds must be clearly marked with the name and address of the person using the blind. Decoys must be removed daily.